

**Discontinuance of route dispersal guidelines**

561. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that regional airlines are being encouraged to improve connectivity to small cities;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any plan to discontinue Government's policy of route dispersal;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the arrangement to provide connectivity to uneconomic routes; and

(e) the role envisaged for the National Carrier 'Indian' in the growing regionalisation of aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Some concessions in terms of lower taxes on ATF and lower landing/parking charges have been given for operations of smaller aircraft, which are mostly operated on regional routes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The national carrier, Indian will continue to play an important role in making available safe, reliable, efficient and affordable air transport services to connect large and small cities as well as far-flung States and Union Territories of country. Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Indian operates 86 flights per week providing connectivity to 11 destinations in the North Eastern Region.

**Growth rate of passengers**

562. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of air passengers, air cargo and airlines operations in the non-metro cities in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) what steps have been taken to gear-up the airport authorities and the airlines to meet the growth rate?